

An aerial photograph of the Hanoi Hilton, a notorious prisoner of war camp in North Vietnam. The camp is a large, rectangular complex with multiple buildings and courtyards, surrounded by a high wall. It is situated in a densely populated urban area with many small, traditional houses and lush green trees. The title text is overlaid on a semi-transparent rectangular box in the center of the image.

CODE OF CONDUCT AND THE RIGHTS OF POWs

The “Hanoi Hilton” Vietnamese POW Camp.

An aerial photograph of a town with red-tiled roofs and green trees. A semi-transparent rectangular box is overlaid in the center, containing the title and a bulleted list.

Overview

- Origin of the Code of Conduct (CoC)
 - Articles of the Code of Conduct
 - Origin of POW Rights
 - 12 Rights of a POW
 - Responsibilities of a POW

An aerial photograph of a town with numerous buildings and trees. A semi-transparent rectangular box is centered over the image, containing the text. The text is in a black serif font. The background image shows a dense residential area with red-tiled roofs and green foliage.

Learning Objectives

Please Read Your
Terminal Learning Objectives
And
Enabling Learning Objectives



Origin of the Code of Conduct

- The Code of Conduct was first promulgated by President Dwight D. Eisenhower Aug. 17, 1955.
- Based on time honored concepts and traditions that date back to the days of the American Revolution



Origin of the Code of Conduct

Purpose of the Code of Conduct

- Serves as a guide for behavior expected of a U.S. Citizen and member of the armed forces.
- NOT intended to provide guidance on every aspect of military life.



ARTICLES OF THE CODE OF CONDUCT (CoC).

Six articles of the Code of Conduct can be divided into three categories.

1. Articles I & VI are general statements of dedication to country and freedom.
2. Conduct on the battlefield is the subject of Article II.
3. Articles III, IV and V concern conduct as a prisoner of war.

ARTICLES OF THE CODE OF CONDUCT (CoC).

Article I - I am an American, fighting in the forces which guard my country and our way of life. I am prepared to give my life in their defense.

Article II - I will never surrender of my own free will. If in command, I will never surrender the members of my command while they still have the means to resist.

ARTICLES OF THE CODE OF CONDUCT (CoC).

Article III - If I am captured I will continue to resist by all means available. I will make every effort to escape and to aid others to escape. I will accept neither parole nor special favors from the enemy.

ARTICLES OF THE CODE OF CONDUCT (CoC)

Article IV - If I become a prisoner of war, I will keep faith with my fellow prisoners. I will give no information or take part in any action which might be harmful to my comrades. If I am senior, I will take command. If not, I will obey the lawful orders of those appointed over me and will back them up in every way.

ARTICLES OF THE CODE OF CONDUCT (CoC)

Article V - When questioned, should I become a prisoner of war, I am required to **give name, rank, service number, and date of birth**. I will evade answering further questions to the utmost of my ability. I will make no oral or written statements disloyal to my country and its allies or harmful to their cause.

ARTICLES OF THE CODE OF CONDUCT (CoC)

Article VI - I will never forget that I am an American, fighting for freedom, responsible for my actions, and dedicated to the principles which made my country free. I will trust in my God and in the United States of America.



ORIGIN OF POW RIGHTS

- The 1949 Geneva Conventions for the Protection of War Victims have been ratified by the United States and came into force for this country on 2 February 1956.

ORIGIN OF POW RIGHTS

Purpose of POW rights: Is inspired by the desire to diminish the evils of war by:

- Protecting both combatants and noncombatants from unnecessary suffering.
- Safeguarding certain fundamental human rights of persons who fall into the hands of the enemy, particularly prisoners of war, the wounded and sick, and civilians.
- Facilitating the restoration of peace.

PRINCIPLES OF THE LAW OF WAR

POW rights stems from the Laws of War as outlined in the Geneva Conventions. The nine principles of the law of war are:

1. Fight only enemy combatants.
2. Do not harm enemies who surrender: disarm them and turn them over to your superior.
3. Do not kill or torture prisoners.
4. Collect and care for the wounded, whether friend or foe.
5. Do not attack medical personnel, facilities, or equipment.

PRINCIPLES OF THE LAW OF WAR

6. Do not destroy more than the mission requires.
7. Treat all civilians humanely.
8. Do not steal; respect private property and possessions.
9. Do your best to prevent violations of the law of war; report all violations to your superiors, a military lawyer, a chaplain, or provost marshal.



THE 12 RIGHTS OF POW's

1. The right to receive sanitary, protective housing and clothing.
2. The right to receive a sufficient amount of food to sustain good health.
3. The right to receive adequate medical care.
4. The right to receive necessary facilities for proper hygiene.
5. The right to practice religious faith.

THE 12 RIGHTS OF POW's

6. The right to keep personal property except weapons, military equipment, and military documents.
7. The right to send and receive mail.
8. The right to receive packages containing no contraband items such as food, clothing, educational, religious, and recreational materials.
9. The right to select a fellow POW to represent you.
10. The right to receive humane treatment.

THE 12 RIGHTS OF POW's

11. The right to have a copy of the Geneva Convention and its annexes, including any special agreements, posted where it can be read. The Geneva Convention and its annexes, etc., must be written in the proper language and available upon request.

12. The right to have a copy of all camp regulations, notices, orders, and publications about POW conduct posted where it can be read. Regulations, notices, etc., must be in the proper language for POWs to understand and available upon request



RESPONSIBILITIES OF A POW

Every prisoner of war, when questioned on the subject, is bound to give only **four** items of information.

1. Name
2. Rank
3. Service number (social security number)
4. Date of birth

RESPONSIBILITIES OF A POW

Obey lawful rules and regulations.

Responsibility to perform paid labor. (As required).

- Labor that is not military
- Not degrading
- Not dangerous
- Not unhealthy

RESPONSIBILITIES OF A POW

- Maintain military discipline in accordance with the rules and regulations governing the armed forces.
- Maintain courtesy and honors to all officers regardless of the branch of the service (U.S. or allied nation).



